

18 April 1979

To: SRP

Regular Use of Outside Consultants by SRP

So far, I have given only little thought to this, and at this point I want only to flag a problem. It would obviously be useful if we could use consultants in our work on NIEs and IIMs. We are generalists and, while this is a considerable asset in reviewing special papers, we naturally lack specialist expertise and therefore the ability to pose questions which occur only to a specialist. The idea of consulting outside specialists suggests itself.

There are, however, several problems.

1. As we move from subject to subject in our reviewing, such consultation could involve a lot of people unless we reserved this procedure for estimates we consider to be of special importance.

2. It would take quite an effort to identify suitable "outsiders" who would be willing to be consulted, and to have them "processed" so that they would be ready to be involved when needed.

3. From one point of view, SRP consultants should be different from those (if any) used by NIOs, etc. From another point of view, the question arises of sharing the experience with NIO and drafters.

4. Then there is the question of timing. Consultation near the end of the production process is infeasible because of time pressure. If we shared consultation with the people involved in writing the estimates, consultation might best be scheduled after the concept paper and before the TRs. If not, we could schedule consultation a few weeks before we anticipate to be asked for a review of a full draft.

5. Regarding the mode of consultation, my preference is for a one or two hour seminar discussion that does not require the consultants to read classified materials.

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